

Texas A&M Grass Images, Bioinformatics Working Group, photo from Forages 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, CD Companion

## WEEPING LOVEGRASS

**DESCRIPTION:** Weeping lovegrass is a vigorous perennial bunchgrass with strong seedling vigor. It produces seedstalks 2 to 5 feet tall and numerous Slender, curving basal leaves 10 to 20 inches long. It is one of the earliest grasses to start growing in spring and the last to turn brown in the fall.

**VARIETIES:** Common, Ermelo and Renner

**ADAPTATION:** Adapted to all well drained soils. Does well on deep sands where other grasses are not as well adapted. Proper fertilization and management are very important for good utilization of this grass.

**PLANTING DATE:** 2/15-5/15. Early is better

**PLANTING RATE:** 1.5 lbs PLS per acre

**SEEDBED PREPARATIONS:** Seeding should be done in a well prepared, clean, well settled seedbed. The land should be worked to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.

**FERTILIZER AND LIME:** Fertilizer and lime should be applied at rates recommended by a recent soil test. Fertilizer for establishment should be applied prior to planting and worked into the soil.

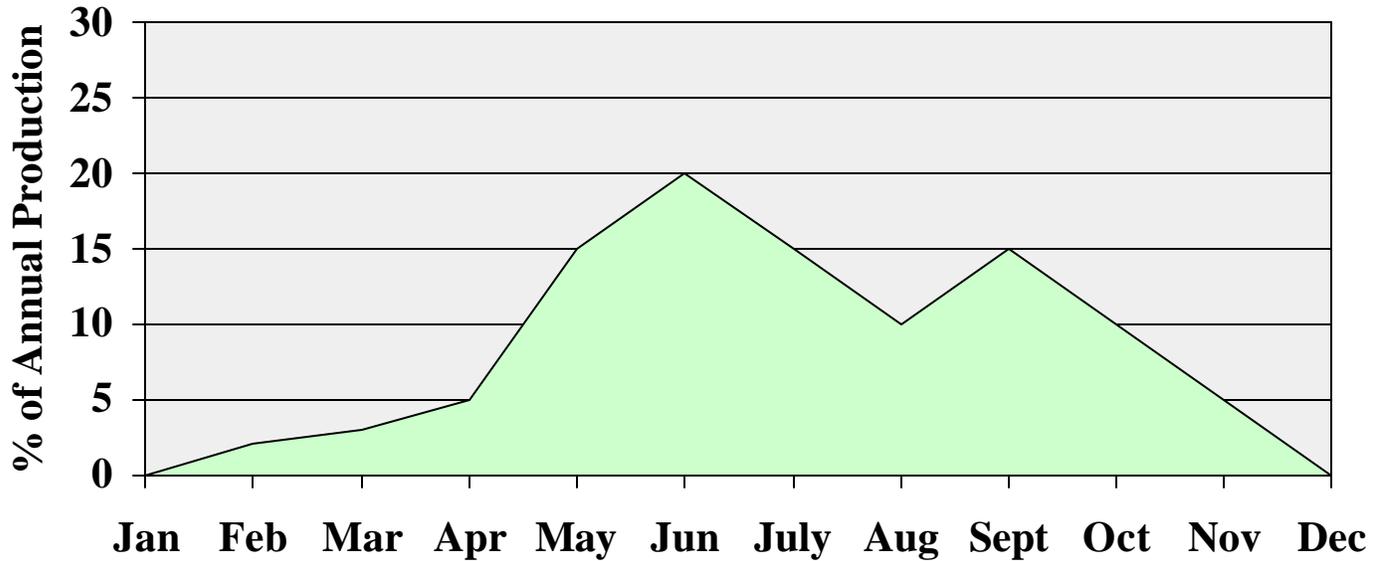
**PLANTING METHODS:** The planting should be made on a dry seedbed with a cultipacker that packs and rolls the seed into the ground. Seed should not be covered more than ¼ inch. Also, the seedbed can be firmed and the seed broadcast or spread with small seed drills and then rolled to pack into the soil. Row planting can

be made with special small seed planters equipped with packing wheels.

**MANAGEMENT:** On new stands control weeds so that young lovegrass seedlings can have full exposure to sunlight. Herbicides should not be used until grass plants have passed the 4-leaf stage. Protect from grazing until plants are well rooted, usually Fall of the first growing season. Do not graze below a 6 inch stubble height. Established stands of lovegrass may be grazed throughout the growing season or may be used for Winter and early Spring grazing. If used for Winter grazing, reduce old growth down to 6 to 8 inches height by September 1 and fertilize. Defer use until after November 1. For early Spring grazing, fertilize about February 15. Mowing should be done as needed to remove old forage and keep plants from forming "stools." In addition to mowing, a control burn in the winter may be beneficial to remove excess litter. Fertilize and control grazing until grass has made 8-10 inch regrowth following the burn.

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# Growth Curve for Weeping Lovegrass



Actual growth is dependent upon local climate and seasonal variations in temperature and rainfall. Growth curve assumes adequate fertility based on soil test recommendation.

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